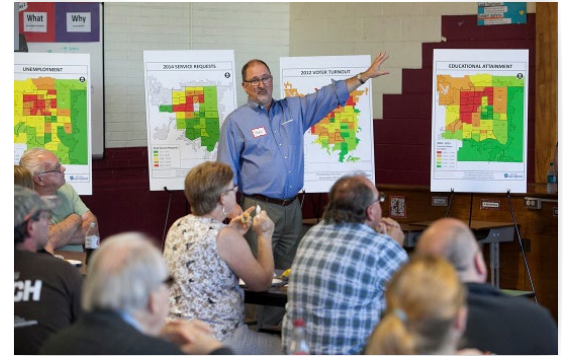




During the month of May 2015, City of Springfield officials and the leaders of various organizations from across the community visited nine neighborhoods in northwest Springfield. They shared information and heard concerns from residents living and working in the city's oldest and most historic areas, many of which are both challenged by aging infrastructure and replete with possibilities.

The tour was prompted by alarming trends that were revealed on intensity maps. Higher negative indicators such as crime, illness and poverty were found to be more concentrated in the northwest "zone" of the community; meanwhile, positive indicators such as food and play space access were lacking. City leaders looked back at 5-10 years' worth of data and saw this was more than a snapshot in time. These were trends that showed no signs of slowing, despite a decade's worth of observation.



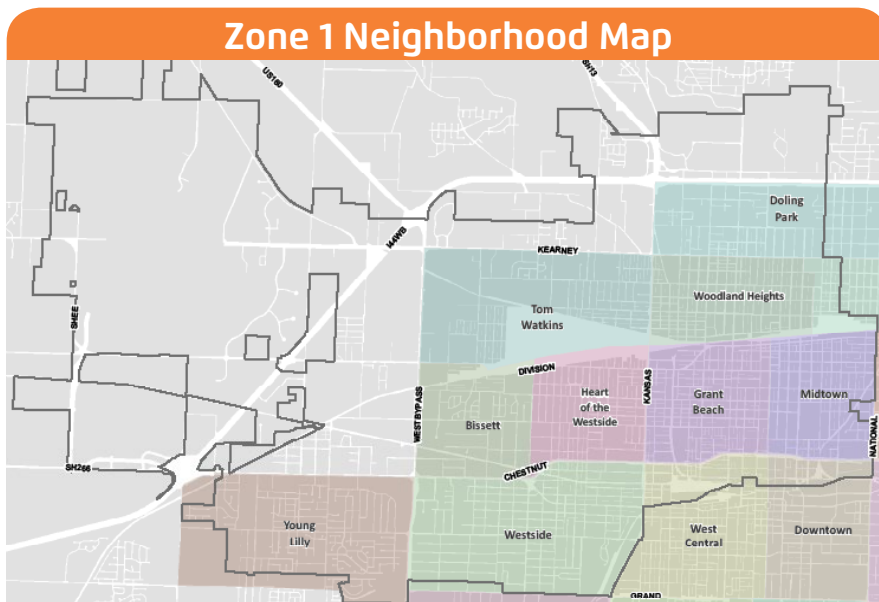
**Residents shared their concerns and voted to indicate priorities.**

**The top three vote-getters included:**

1. Chronic Nuisance Properties
2. Sidewalk & Other Roadway Issues
3. Crime & Safety Concerns

Following the May tour, called "Community Listen," the City and its more than 156 partners, grew to an army of 264 individuals, representing nearly 100 organizations. Recruited largely in part by City Manager Burris, partner organizations agreed to immediate action planning to improve life in the under-resourced neighborhoods.

The group divided into 11 topic teams, each led by two coaches. Teams recruited players from partner organizations, ending up with dream-team rosters, including average citizens and heavy hitters ranging from CEOs to ministers to doctors.



**The 11 topic teams and their recommendations are outlined on the following pages.**



# Zone Blitz! Topic Team Recommendations:

## CHRONIC NUISANCE PROPERTIES

**Chris Straw & Pete Radecki**

- Create a report in March 2016 outlining activity levels for Building Development Services related to CNP enforcement and make recommendations for additional code changes and/or staffing/budget increases needed.
- Implement a pilot Spring 2016 in a small area.
- Create a plan for future clean ups that would blanket Zone 1.
- Launch an educational program for landlords, tenants and home owners.
- Develop and maintain a list of chronic nuisance property “hot spots”.
- Explore new ways to encourage and support home repair improvement programs.



- Identify informal and formal Zone 1 leaders and engage these leaders as communicators.
- Develop “hubs” for information sharing at identified locations within Zone 1.
- Heavily promote the 211 system as a part of all communication endeavors.

## DIGITAL DIVIDE

**Jeff Coiner & Ben Hackenwerth**

- Continue Springfield Public Schools’ (SPS) 3-year tech initiative.
- Expand Springfield-Greene County Libraries pilot project to provide wireless hotspots to patrons.
- Encourage City Council to offer incentives to local businesses providing public Internet access.
- Public entities develop education programs to promote low-cost Internet access options; offer surplus technologies at low/no cost to those qualifying for SPS Free & Reduced Lunch program.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

**Dr. Mike Stout & Russ Gosselin**

- Every person has value and abilities
- Relationships are key
- Identify potential leaders, partners, and assets in Zone 1.
- Meet with key faith leaders separately (remove obstacles related to religiosity/avoid conflict over different religious beliefs and focus on faith and love).
- Plan and host a meeting with Zone 1 leadership and the Civic Engagement team to facilitate a similar joint exercise to begin the process of working together.

## COMMUNICATION

**Cora Scott & Teresa Bledsoe**

- Using the communication mission statement of: “Raising the quality of life for Springfield’s neighborhoods – Chapter 1, Zone 1” write a comprehensive PR/communication plan promoting of Zone Blitz! activities.

## FOOD ACCESS

**Bart Brown & Jon Mooney**

- Increase enrollment in the SNAP (formerly food stamps and WIC programs and encourage full use by existing participants.
- Support Springfield Community Gardens and expand garden network in Zone 1.
- Develop a Community Food Resource Center to support existing pantries by providing regularly available supplement food assistance, focusing on fresh foods.
- Further investigate and, if appropriate, implement retail mobile food solutions.
- Partner with Springfield Public Schools to investigate and, if appropriate, implement a Child and Adult Care Food Program in Zone 1.

## HEALTH CARE

### Katie Towns-Jeter & Carmen Bradshaw

- Research, design and begin implementation of a Springfield Public Schools Social Worker program.
- Develop and implement a plan to ensure coordination of health care services.
- Health focus on diabetes prevention.

## HOUSING

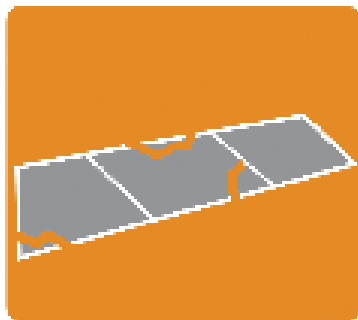
### Monte McNew & Brendan Griesemer

- Educate residents on weatherization and energy assistance options.
- Address rental property challenges.
- Focus on a small, 4-6 block pilot project area, using an RFP process in neighborhoods to determine location.
- Create an area resource manager position residents can trust to guide them to better their housing situation.

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

### Dan Smith & Kelly Turner

- Construct new sidewalks in high-priority locations to provide safe access and connectivity.
- Improve transit operations and amenities in Zone 1.
  - New Bus Transfer Station
  - Proposed modifications to bus routes
- Utilize parks to develop better neighborhoods and encourage civic engagement.
  - Improve lighting, offer safety education programs, new sport leagues, etc.
- Construct new stormwater facilities to reduce flooding in Zone 1 neighborhoods.
  - Specific projects identified
- Continue program to reduce stormwater infiltration into sanitary sewers in Zone 1.



## JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Dr. Stephanie Bryant & Mary Lilly Smith

- Locate Missouri Job Center satellite office in Zone 1.
- Identify informal and formal Zone 1 leaders and engage these leaders as mentors.
- Develop an apprenticeship program with area businesses.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Chief Paul Williams & Pauletta Dunn

- Reopen the jail to municipal prisoners.
- Increase citizen engagement
- Enhanced service provider and departmental/agency coordination.



## WELLNESS

### Brooks Miller & John Twitty

- Create an inventory of already-existing wellness initiatives in Zone 1 and identify gaps.
- Identify informal and formal Zone 1 leaders and engage them as “wellness extenders” and “wellness champions” in Zone 1.
- Fund discounted membership to Doling Family Center for Zone 1 residents.



# Inputs into the Zone Blitz! Action Plan



Citizen input and engagement is important to creating a healthy community. While the Community Listen initiative gathered feedback from nine different neighborhoods from within Springfield's northwest quadrant (City Council Zone 1, it is not the only source of information used to form the Zone Blitz! Action Plan. Sources also include information provided by about 175 individuals representing nearly 100 organizations forming 11 Zone Blitz Topic Teams; a study analyzing the "walkability" of Springfield's neighborhoods by the Healthy Living Alliance; the Impacting Poverty Commission's research and findings; a transportation citizen survey; 900 responses to the City of Springfield's biannual Citizen Satisfaction Survey; outreach experience of Community Partnership of the Ozarks and Convoy of Hope; Community Foundation of the Ozarks' community-building grant; City Council input and funds; lessons shared at the Council of Churches of the Ozarks' Focus on Faith series and the priorities identified by the City of Springfield's Neighborhood Advisory Council, facilitated by the City's Planning & Development department.

**For more information. Visit [www.springfieldmo.gov/zoneblitz](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/zoneblitz)**

# Zone Blitz Partners:

ALPS & Freedom Construction  
Arc of the Ozarks  
Associated Wholesale Grocers  
Association of Information Technology Professionals  
AT&T  
Atlas Security, Inc.  
Bartley-Decatur Neighborhood Center  
Bass Pro  
Bill's House  
Boy Scouts  
Brentwood Christian Church  
Buckhorn Inc.  
Burrell Behavioral Health  
Care to Learn  
Catholic Charities of Southwest Missouri  
Center City Christian Outreach  
Central Assembly  
Central Trust Co.  
City of Springfield - Information Systems  
City of Springfield - Building Development Services  
City of Springfield - City Manager's Office  
City of Springfield - Environmental Services  
City of Springfield - Fire Department  
City of Springfield - Law Department  
City of Springfield - Municipal Court  
City of Springfield - Planning  
City of Springfield - Police Department  
City of Springfield - Public Information  
City of Springfield - Public Works  
City of Springfield - Workforce Development  
City Utilities  
Community Foundation of the Ozarks  
Community Partnership of the Ozarks  
Consumer Credit Counseling Services of the Ozarks  
Convoy of Hope  
Council of Churches of the Ozarks  
Courageous Family Group  
CoxHealth  
CoxHealth EMS  
Diaper Bank of the Ozarks  
Doling Neighborhood Association  
Doula Foundation  
Drew Lewis Foundation at The Fairbanks  
Drury University-Community Outreach & Leadership Development  
Drury University- Development and Alumni Relations  
Drury University- School of Business Administration  
Drury University-College of Graduate Studies  
Drury University ENACTUS  
Drury University Graduate Program in Communication  
eFactory  
Evangel University College of Business  
Evangel University Political Science  
Evangel University Science & Technology  
Faith Voices SWMO  
Faith Voices Temple Israel Sisterhood  
Freshwater Church  
Giggle Box Project  
Good Dads, Inc.  
Greene County  
Greene County Commission  
Guaranty Bank  
Habitat for Humanity  
Harmony House  
Healthy Living Alliance  
Heart of the Ozarks  
Housing Plus  
Husch Blackwell, LLP  
Hy-Vee  
Isabel's House  
Jenkins Diesel, Inc.  
Jordan Valley Community Health Center

Junior League  
Kay Fulnecky & Associates  
Layer 3 Technology  
League of Women Voters  
Legal Services of Southwest Missouri  
Life 360 Church  
Mediacom  
Mercy  
Mercy SafeKids Springfield  
Merrill Lynch  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
Missouri Job Center  
Missouri State University Provost Office  
Missouri State University Center for Community Engagement  
Missouri State University College of Business  
Missouri State University Dept. of Public Safety  
Missouri State University Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology  
Missouri State University Multicultural Programs and Diversity  
Missouri State University Dept. of Social Work  
Missouri State University Dept. of Admin and Info Services  
Missouri State University/SMCOG  
Mo. Association of Planning Students  
Mo. Healthcare for All and CACCD  
MSU Care  
Neighborhood Advisory Council  
News-Leader  
North Point Church  
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.  
Ollis/Akers/Arney Insurance & Business Advisors  
Olsson & Associates  
Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation  
Ozarks Community Hospital  
Ozarks Counseling Center  
Ozarks Food Harvest  
Ozarks Greenways  
Ozarks Technical Community College  
Parkview High School Leadership School  
People Centric Consulting Group  
PJC Insurance  
Red Cross  
Salvation Army  
Sam's Club  
SMCOG  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce  
Springfield Art Museum  
Springfield Ballet  
Springfield City Council  
Springfield Community Land Trust  
Springfield First Community Bank  
Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association  
Springfield Public Schools  
Springfield-Greene County Health Department  
Springfield-Greene County Library District  
Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management  
Springfield-Greene County Park Board  
SRAC  
SRC Inc.  
Stone Soup Ministries  
The Downtown Church  
The Kitchen, Inc.  
The Network  
The Summit Preparatory School of Southwest Missouri  
The Victim Center  
The Whitlock Company  
Tuthill Vacuum Blowers  
United Way  
Verizon  
VRCO  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
Woodland Heights NBA  
YMCA